

THE LIBERATOR

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN | **MARCH 3, 2014** | ISSUE 11

ROUND-UP
a history

Pope Francis:
New Perspectives on
an Old Religion

MIXING MEDIA:
American Shows
Overseas

COVER STORY:
HOW DO YOU TAKE
YOUR **NEWS?**
TIPS ON BEING A SMART CONSUMER

Photo by Madhu Singh

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MARCH 2014

NEWS

04 '14 Primaries, why you should care & how to inform yourself

12 Celebrations of the Spring

16 Campus Updates
UT Senate Election Results

FEATURES

03 A Semester of LAC

07 Bikes vs. Cars
A Letter of Advice

14 Round-Up (A History)

15 Alternative Spring Break
in ATX

ENTERTAINMENT

Professor Spotlight:
Juliet Lewis

Mixing Media: American
Shows Overseas

Beyond the Silver Screen
Award Show Politics

Protesting the Torch:
A History of Olympic Protests

OPINION

New Perspectives on
an Old Religion

The Scholar: The Elusiveness
of Cool

From Russia with
{Limited} Love

06

08

09

18

05

13

19



Photos by Madhu Singh, Texas Yearbook Archives & Creative Commons

*INTERESTED IN BEING A
PART OF THE LIBERATOR?*

KEEP AN EYE OUT IN THE FALL FOR INFORMATION ON
APPLYING TO BE A PART OF LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL!
THE LIBERATOR IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WRITERS,
PHOTOGRAPHERS AND DESIGNERS INTERESTED IN
BEING A PART OF A PUBLICATION

ON THE COVER **10** | HOW DO YOU TAKE YOUR NEWS?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Love it? Hate it? Let us know! Letters to the editor reviewing articles from this issue will be printed in the next edition of *THE LIBERATOR*.

THE LIBERATOR is the official publication of The Liberal Arts Council. As a liberal arts-focused news magazine, we aim to keep students connected to the university through updates on legislation, campus affairs and student life. All questions, comments and concerns can be directed to THE LIBERATOR at:

theliberator.lac@gmail.com



THE LIBERATOR

Patty Sanger
Co-Editor | Content
Editor

Kelly deMoya
Co-Editor | Design
Editor

Natalia Naranjo
Communications
Co-Chair

Aisha Ali
James Balagia
Natalie Bernstein
Omar Gamboa
Madeleine Kenney
Cassie Maneen
Aleya Nour

Megan Palombo
Alex D'Jamoos
Madhu Singh
Kellie Stone
Jacob Troublefield
Keely Witherow

ON DECK WITH LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF UT LIBERAL ARTS STUDENTS SINCE 1979

EVENTS

Are You Smarter than a COLA Professor on March 4th

Professors can be intimidating. How great would it be if you could prove you were smarter than one? Join Academic Affairs Committee in their test of trivia: old versus young, Ph.D. versus Bachelors. Can you take down the all mighty to prove your mastery of the Liberal Arts, or will the professors prove their prowess? All that alliteration aside, prizes and food will be present and no matter who wins, it's always good for a few laughs when the competition gets heated.

Liberal Arts Startup Challenge on March 4th

Liberal Arts students are action oriented with a wide breadth of knowledge, which makes them well positioned to launch world changing for-profit and not-for-profit ventures. Join former UT Austin Liberal Arts student, John Arrow, for a discussion on his first principles of entrepreneurship.

Faculty Appreciation Breakfast on March 6th 8am-10am

Have you had a professor within the College of Liberal Arts that was amazing? Do you think 'life-changing' isn't a strong enough word to describe your experience? Or maybe you think the faculty of CoLA need a good, strong pat on the back. Come talk to professors and mingle with the best at this social event. Food will be provided, as will meaningful conversation. Come join the Academic Affairs Committee and let your professors know you don't fall asleep in their class.

Women of COLA Brunch on March 25th from 10am-12pm

Are you a woman? Are you in the College of Liberal Arts? Do you like breakfast food when it's served between the hours of 10am and 12pm? If so, this may be the perfect event for you. Come celebrate your gender and chat with other leading ladies at an all-inclusive meal. Hosted by the Student Affairs Committee, it should be quite delightful. Registration will open soon, and we hope to see your name grace the list!

SCHOLARSHIPS

Summer/Spring 2014 Study Abroad Scholarship: Open Now- Due 3/16

The world is pretty darn big, so why not make it a little more manageable. Academic Affairs Committee has your back. Apply now for the Summer or Spring 2014 Study Abroad Scholarship. By filling out this application, a student can win up to \$2,000 for their trip abroad in a long semester (sorry, Maymester students). Open to anyone in the College of Liberal Arts, we can't wait to send you off!

Academic Decathlon on April 26

Remember in high school when the nerds beat out the popular kids and showed them who's boss? Maybe that was just in High School Musical, but we have a chance to make that dream a reality. If you think you have what it takes to challenge the big dogs, the Academic Affairs Committees of Senate are banning together to create one intense competition. Gather your winning team and see if you have what it takes. Prizes will be given to the top teams, as will eternal fame and glory. So get your head in the game, kiddos.

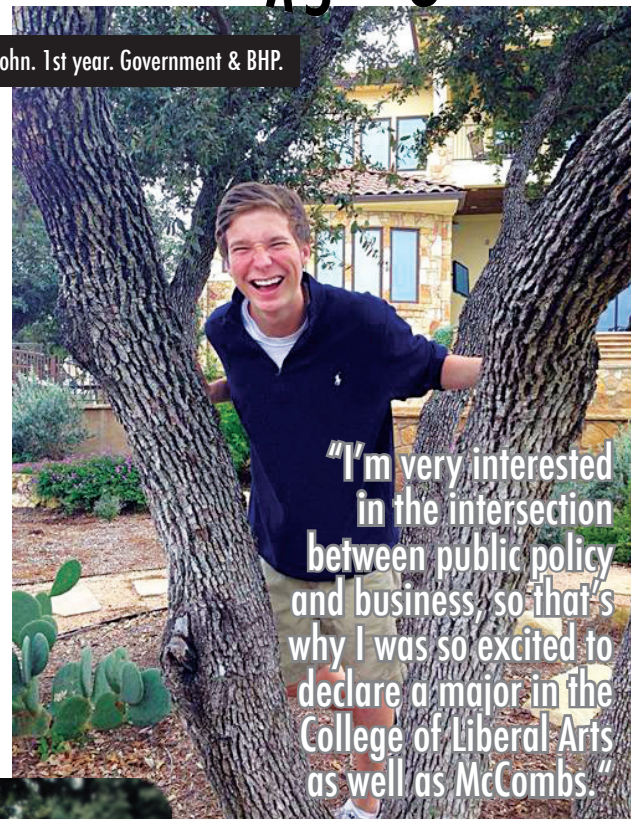
COMING SOON:

Research in Motion (Date TBD)

Not many people realize how much research comes out of the College of Liberal Arts. From fictional language analysis, to ground-breaking psychological research, to the most exciting historical events you've ever heard, we've got a little bit of everything. Academic Affairs will be hosting, while guests give short presentations about the cool research coming out of the College of Liberal Arts. The best part is that it's all student conducted research! Additionally, if you're burning to tell an audience about your too-cool-for-school findings, look for the Facebook Group "Research in Motion" and fill



John. 1st year. Government & BHP.



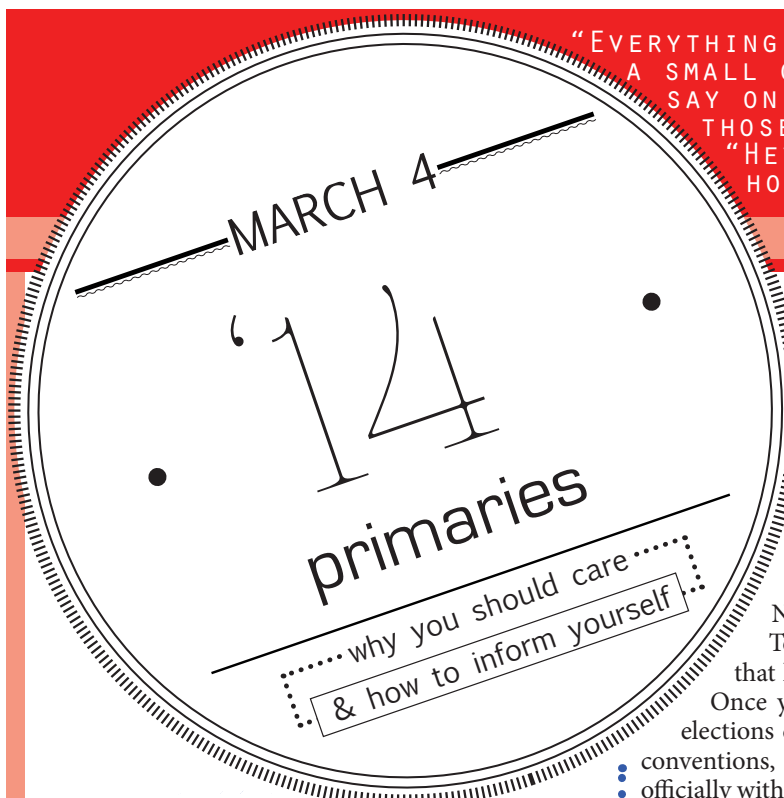
"I'm very interested in the intersection between public policy and business, so that's why I was so excited to declare a major in the College of Liberal Arts as well as McCombs."

"I love my majors because I get to learn about the environment around me and through my studies, I hope to create a better environment for everybody!"



Liz. 2nd year. Anthropology/Sociology/Geography.

Check out our very own Students of Liberal Arts Tumblr! Inspired by Humans of New York thestudentsofcola.tumblr.com/



"EVERYTHING YOU DO, EVERYDAY, EVERYWHERE IS AFFECTED BY THE DECISIONS A SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE MAKE ON YOUR BEHALF. LUCKILY, WE HAVE A SAY ON WHO THESE PEOPLE ARE. OUR PUBLIC LEADERS PAY ATTENTION TO THOSE WHO VOTE... SO VOTING IS REALLY A WAY FOR STUDENTS TO SAY "HEY! I HAVE AN OPINION, AND YOU BETTER LISTEN TO IT" AND TO HOLD OUR LEADERS ACCOUNTABLE WHEN THEY DON'T"

-DAVID LOEWENBERG

It's true that presidential elections happen every four years, and that the Oval Office is still secure for two more. But civic duty is not for the White House alone, and the 2014 midterm elections have a huge impact on the political make-up of our state and country. This election in March will be a primary, but don't let the term "primary" throw you off. It just means members of a political party choose a candidate for an upcoming general election (like the one this November).

Texas effectually has a hybrid primary system, that lies somewhere between an open and closed. Once you vote for a party, you are excluded from elections dealing with the opposite party (e.g. runoff, conventions, etc.). Essentially, you don't have to register officially with a party or declare your allegiance on one side of the aisle in order to vote in the primaries, but through voting, you are still picking a side.

So if it's not for president who is running?

Offices sought in these elections range from U.S. Senator and Texas Supreme Court Justice to State Representative and, of course, the high profile race for the Governor's mansion among others.

Committee Member for UT's Hook the Vote and Government senior, David Loewenberg said, "[The races] at the very top, the race for governor and lieutenant governor, will really decide what path our state chooses to take in the coming years when it comes to issues like education, healthcare, and the economy."

The Secretary of State is the chief election officer and her Elections Division provides a whole host of non-partisan information regarding what candidates have filed for which office under which party.

"At the very top, the race for governor & Lt. governor, will really decide what path [TX] chooses to take in the coming years when it comes to issues like education, healthcare, & economy."

The Secretary's website offers additional information on the voting process, but campaign websites and non-profit organizations can be better to figure out specific platforms and candidates' stances on certain issues.

Project Vote Smart is a popular and established web platform that allows you to search for voting records and policy stances on nearly every elected official, and they intentionally break complicated issues down to an easy to understand format.

Also, if you've been really into BuzzFeed's new quizzes, try Project Vote Smart's interactive VoteEasy™. This is an awesome online tool that uses infographics and policy stances to help inform the user of which candidate most aligns with their personal views. They're still gearing up to break down 2014 races, but in addition to being informative, it's pretty darn fun.

I get it. I should go vote. um, how?

The mechanics of how to actually vote is what seems to be

glossed over despite that very good intention to participate. Students face some interesting circumstances with regard to voter registration, especially how often they move. At this point, the most important thing to realize is that you cannot be registered in two places at once.

If you are signed up back home in San Antonio, you needed to vote early by mail, or absentee. Otherwise, polls are open from 7:00AM to 7:00PM on Election Day. Your polling place is highly publicized online and in local news the Saturday before Election Day.

Though its recommended to update your address by filling out a new voter registration card, moving a few streets over most likely will not affect your ability to actually vote. If your new address is still in the same precinct and has the same polling location, you're good to go! For many Longhorns living on or close to campus, the FAC will be your designated polling location.

→ try Project Vote Smart's interactive VoteEasy™. It's an online tool that uses infographics & policy stances to help inform users which candidate most aligns with your personal views

What about all that Voter ID stuff?

Let's start with the basics. To be eligible to vote in Texas you must be a citizen, live in the Texas county where you are registered, be 18 years old on Election Day, and not be a convicted felon or have a fully discharged sentence or pardon. For all the out-of-state students, you have to be registered in Texas to vote in the Lone Star State.

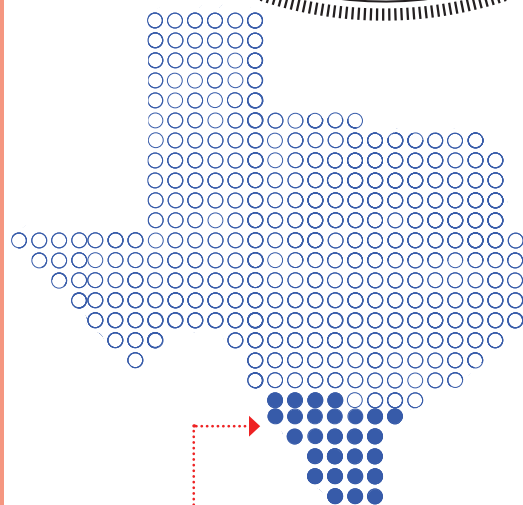
Now, here's the new jazz. Unless you have a permanent exemption on your voter registration, you must show an approved form of photo I.D. to the election official in order to vote. No, your Plucker's frequent buyer card won't count.

Loewenberg said, "The new voter ID laws have definitely thrown in extra variables that students need to be aware of when they go vote, particularly when it comes to out-of-state students who have registered here. If you have a Texas ID such as a driver's license, you're fine. If you don't, however, you'll need to bring a current U.S. Passport or Military ID, or obtain a Texas Election ID Certificate from DPS."

Now, most are probably banking on bringing their license, but be aware that under the new law the ID must be current or have expired no more than 60 days before voting. So, grab a friend and snacks and make the trek to the DPS—Pflugerville seems to have a quick one. Don't worry though, as long as you live where you are registered, for example in Travis County then your Texas driver's license will suffice even if the address on there is from your hometown.

The honest fact is that Texas ranks 48th out of 50 states for voter participation. Pundits often talk about Texas being a red state and many activists murmur phrases like "turning Texas purple," but the truth is that Texas is a non-voting state. For those of you who are ready to get registered, keep an eye out around campus in the coming months. Organizations like Hook the Vote as well as any partisan student orgs will be fighting hard to get people registered, especially for the coming general election in November.

■ CASSIE MANEEN



only 3.6% of eligible voters showed up vote for one of the 7 democratic candidates

in the 2010 republican primaries only 8% (1.5 m/ 18 m. eligible voters) showed up to the polls
DESPITE each of the contenders spending >\$20 m. on their campaigns (& it being a particularly influential tone-setting decision for the state)

2014 PRIMARIES (on the ballot)

- US SENATE
- GOVERNOR
- LT. GOVERNOR
- ATTORNEY GENERAL
- STATE SENATORS
- STATE REPRESENTATIVES
- BOARD OF EDUCATION POSITIONS
- SUPREME COURT JUSTICES
- COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
- COMMISSIONERS OF GENERAL LAND OFFICE, RAILROAD, AGRICULTURE

NEW PERSPECTIVES | ON AN OLD RELIGION



Let's face it, the dislike and distrust between spiritual orientations of the world has dated back past what I would like to research on Google. Much of it stems from the eras of religious organizations' heavy involvement in politics, money, and business. It stems from a time when these religions were misled by their own leaders into war or acts of hate. And, it stems from individuals who claim to be a part of a certain religion and then act against its founding principles.

However, recently there has been a general public approval of an individual who is both the central leader and who acts to undermine misconceptions of this religion. This person, who both scholarly articles and BuzzFeed have written about, has made an effort connecting to both the young and old, believers and non-believers. He is TIME Magazine's Person of the Year for 2013. This man is Pope Francis, the leader of the Catholic Church.

The pope is the Bishop of Rome and the leader of the Catholic Church. This position has been passed down from the original successor, Saint Peter, to whom Jesus said in the Bible, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church." (Matthew 16:18)

To elect a new pope, College of Cardinals members under the age of 80 cast a ballot, and the elected pope must have a two-thirds-plus-one majority. Just as any major election, excited Catholics and lay-people (about 70,000 of them to give a number) camp outside of the Vatican Palace in St. Peter's Square for the traditional signal of a new pope: white smoke created from the burning of the ballots emanating from the palace.

AN IMPRESSIVE RESUME

Jorge Mario Bergoglio, or Pope Francis, has impressed many non-believers through his words and actions as pope. Mason McCormick, an atheist Freshman, comments that, "He is definitely a Pope for the people. He is making a marked effort of modernizing the Church."

However, Bergoglio was quite impressive before he stepped foot on that platform. He has a master's degree in Chemistry from the University of Buenos Aires (that goes along with his two other master's degrees in Philosophy and Theology), loves Lord of the Rings (he has even used characters as

examples during sermons), is a soccer fan (he supports the San Lorenzo de Almagro Football club from his hometown), owned a Harley-Davidson motorcycle (which he later sold at an auction benefitting the homeless community), and once worked as a bouncer in a Buenos Aires bar.

Not only is his personal life very interesting, he has also made changes to what it means to be the pope. Pope Francis traded in the traditional "Popemobile" – bulletproof glass and all – for a 30 year old Renault 4, flies economy class, and is the first non-European pope in 1200 years as well as the first pope from the Americas.

A NEW AGE APPROACH

But while all of this is impressive, these facts have gone unnoticed by most of the world, especially the non-Catholic world. These tidbits of his life are not what make Pope Francis so great, it is not why the world has continuously been talking about him. It is his great deeds and humbly uplifting

"Pope Francis stands for social justice and good morals and everything that I think our world needs at this moment. His views are applicable to everyone because he's a good role model"
-Hailey Nissl

words that have captured the attention of all, including students here at UT. As Hailey Nissl, a believer in the spiritual world but not a Catholic, eloquently summed it up, "I'm not Christian but I think he stands for social justice and good morals and everything that I think our world needs at this moment. His views are applicable to everyone because he's a good role model."

This is shown perfectly in his recent stand on the extremely relevant social issue of homophobia. Pope Francis has stated many times that the Catholic Church has no right to interfere spiritually in the lives of gay men and lesbian women, saying "If someone is gay and he searches for the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge?"

As Miranda Grabowski, UT student and Methodist, states, "I think this pope is a genuinely good person, regardless of whether he is progressive or conservative. He seems completely approachable and not

all hyped up on his 'popeness.'"

As a more humble and personal pope, Pope Francis invited 17 year old Alberto di Tullio, who has Down Syndrome, for a personal ride on the Popemobile and embraced Vinicio Riva who has an extremely scarring genetic disease. He held a major Holy Week service in the Casal del Marmo jail for minors and washed their feet, and personally called a victim of rape who had written him a letter. Lastly, but probably the greatest of all, he took part in a selfie.

A HOPEFUL FUTURE

Not only does Pope Francis reach out to the youth, he also braches out to include other religions and spiritual groups. He has called for the working together between Muslims and Christians as well as spoken out against the common interpretation within the Catholic Church that atheists are bad people, exclaiming that "Atheists should be seen as good people if they do good."

Sean Pais, UT Catholic student, declares that he really respects the pope not only for what he's done in the global community but what he has also done within the Church. "As a Catholic, I love our new pope as he's been breaking new ground for the church and making Catholicism modern and more accessible to people worldwide,"

Sean comments, "I didn't know anything about him before he became pope, but I think he's done a great job of returning the direction of the church to adhering to the teachings of the Bible and steering it away from overly political and controversial activities."

Looking back to Pope Francis' entrance onto the balcony as the newly elected pope, it is clear to me how nervous and shocked he was. With his awkward little wave and his awe-struck expression taking in the 70,000 excited people, the personality of Pope Francis shined through.

The world would come to find out just how relatable, understanding, and compassionate he is, with many students of all different spiritual beliefs now celebrating this change; but looking at his first entrance into the public eye, one can already see signs of the awesomeness that was to come.

■ KELLIE STONE

"Wars shatter so many lives. I think especially of children robbed of their childhood." 1/18/14 @ 3:18 AM

"Let us pray for peace, and let us bring it about, starting in our own homes!" 1/16/14 @ 5:16 AM

"No elderly person should be like an "exile" in our families. The elderly are a treasure for our society." 1/11/14 @ 4:11 AM

"Let us leave a spare place at our table: a place for those who lack the basics, who are alone." 1/7/14 @ 4:11 AM

"Holiness doesn't mean doing extraordinary things, but doing ordinary things with love and faith." 12/5/13 @ 8:05 AM

"Too often we participate in the globalization of indifference. May we strive instead to live global solidarity." 10/26/13 @ 8:45 AM

"Our prayer cannot be reduced to an hour on Sundays. It is important to have a daily relationship with the Lord." 10/17/13 @ 8:45 AM

"Dear young people, do not be afraid of making decisive choices in life. Have faith; the Lord will not abandon you!" 10/14/13 @ 8:55 AM

"Where we find hate and darkness, may we bring love and hope, in order to give a more human face to society." 9/30/13 @ 5:30 AM

"The Church has no other meaning and finality than to witness to Jesus. May we not forget this." 9/23/13 @ 4:23 AM

Follow Pope Francis: @Pontifex

JULIET WALKER



Photo by Madhu Singh

PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT: PORTRAYALING AFRICAN AMERICANS ON THE BIG SCREEN

Many opinions towards race have changed in the last century, and among the most significant changes: the media portrayal of African Americans. The Liberator sat down to discuss these changes with Dr. Juliet Walker, director of the Center for Black Business History, Entrepreneurship and Technology and Professor within the UT History department.

A GROWING FASCINATION

Dr. Walker has recently been interested in studies concerning successful entrepreneurial African Americans. Her course on Oprah Winfrey is an example of this niche, but it only scratches the surface of Dr. Walker's work.

For her doctoral dissertation, Dr. Walker wrote "Free Frank," an investigation into her great-great-grandfather's life. Free Frank McWorter, a Kentucky slave who was able to buy his freedom in 1819, went on to establish the town of New Philadelphia in Illinois and buy the freedom of 16 other family members before his death in 1854.

"Free Frank's story is unique because he was a frontier slave and once he bought his freedom, he had in front of him an abundance of land and a shortage of population," Dr. Walker said. "This gave him entrepreneurial ideas; an entrepreneur being defined as someone that makes unusual amounts of money using commonly used resources."

After buying his freedom, Free Frank continued to produce saltpeter--a skill he learned as a slave and an essential ingredient for gunpowder. With his profits, Free Frank bought freedom for his relatives and was eventually forced to trade in the business for his eldest son's freedom.

"Just think of [his] drive; being over 40 years old when he bought his freedom, considering the life expectancy then... the determination to keep on keeping on, when people are dropping out of school after a getting a D," Dr. Walker said. "Every time I get sick of something, I look at Free Frank."

Recently, Dr. Walker has expressed the hope of getting "Free Frank" adapted into a film. She says she remembers

the 1977 TV miniseries *Roots* being the first film to portray the transatlantic slave trade and fascinating many in the African American community. This was not to last. Unfortunately, *Roots*, while based on Alex Haley's search of his genealogy, was later the subject of a lawsuit for plagiarism.

"*Roots* was based on oral history and Alex Haley. I was told to write mine as an oral history," Dr. Walker said. "As a historian, though, I wanted to write mine with the historicism that I'm known for." Dr. Walker said.

Still, Dr. Walker says *Roots* did a lot in giving the

"The recent popular films (like *12 Years a Slave* or *The Butler*) are fantastic movies, but the problem with them is we already know there was slavery and bad stuff. What these movies say, though, is that there were always white people to help them out."

black community a more significant place in film, if not portraying it with humanity.

BLAXPLOITATION

Around the time of *Roots* was also the wave of the Blaxploitation genre of films. With these films, Dr. Walker said the black community was given further empowerment, with films like *Shaft*, *Superfly*, and *Across 110th Street*. These films had almost entirely black casts with black leads.

"This was exciting because it was like blacks had come out of being the character just shuffling and grinning or just

being the butler," Dr. Walker said. "It was like they were making a stand."

Dr. Walker said Blaxploitation was another big step forward, especially from television shows such as *Amos and Andy*, where white actors donned blackface for almost a decade. Still, the Blaxploitation did have an exploitation quality to it, being an economic idea from movie production companies to begin with.

MODERN MOVIES

Recent, more serious films about African Americans have continued to rise in popularity, but there still aren't enough 'Will Smiths', Dr. Walker says. Not many films carry the popularity of *Independence Day*, with a black lead and with the ability to be shown several times a year on major television networks.

Instead, recent popular films about African Americans display subservient African Americans undergoing harsh treatment under slavery, poverty, or social alienation. Some examples include *12 Years A Slave*, *Precious*, and *The Butler*.

"They're fantastic movies, but the problem with them is we already know there was slavery and bad stuff," Dr. Walker said. "What these movies say, though, is that there were always white people to help them out."

Dr. Walker said there aren't very many movies depicting African Americans being entrepreneurs, using ingenuity to save themselves. In response to that, the story of Free Frank is a story of a slave finding a way to free him self.

"My mother told me Free Frank's greatest wish was to keep New Philadelphia alive," Dr. Walker said.

Indeed, due to Dr. Walker's research, political figures including then-Illinois Senator Barack Obama approved New Philadelphia, Illinois as a National Historic Landmark. While New Philadelphia's population has since erased, the town carries a place on the map larger than ever before.

■ OMAR GAMBOA

BIKES VS CARS



Let's face it, the rivalry is getting old. So let's get some things straight

An Open Letter to Drivers:

I know bikers can be dumb. They don't follow the same rules as vehicles, and then complain that they aren't treated with enough respect. I've heard complaints about bikers riding on sidewalks, not stopping at stoplights or stop signs, and just being all-around inconsiderate.

I want to stress how dangerous this can be for you. A 140-pound body is not a fun thing when it collides into your car. "Oh, that's so silly! This will never happen to me. These things happen to the lesser folk," you might think while sipping your tea. That's what I used to say too, until I got hit by a car while riding my bike.

Getting hit by a car is expensive: it cost me approximately \$1,500 for a minor accident, not to mention the unquantifiable fear of it happening again. The bruise on my leg still hasn't gone away. Keep in mind, that's for a minor accident. Now imagine it had been more serious. That's not too far reaching of an idea, considering 33% of fatal traffic accidents in Austin were at the expense of the pedestrian.

Ultimately, I have seen cars parked in bike lanes, cars almost sideswiping bikes to get past them, and annoyance because bikes can't go quite as fast as motor vehicles, and I'm disgusted. Shout out to you, Bus-that-swerved-into-the-bike-lane-while-I-was-in-it. Austin may be 'Bike Friendly', but that doesn't mean all bikers will be that way, too. Here is a list of a few ways to not end up in jail for manslaughter:

1) Be patient. Are bikers perfect? No. But neither are all drivers. Road rage happens because people 'don't know how to drive'. Sound familiar? Cut bicyclists a break; because even though other drivers have to live with your poor driving decisions, a bicyclist may not be so lucky.

2) Look both ways before you cross the street. Austin likes bushes. It likes big huge bushes that obstruct visions in intersections and make driving even more hazardous. Bikes and pedestrians fit perfectly behind said bushes, so maybe spend the time to inch out a little more to make sure you don't cost yourself a higher premium and a new hood.

3) Be alert. Not only does it significantly decrease your ability to control your car if you don't have both hands on the wheel, but your distraction could cost someone their life. Texting and talking on the phone is just terrible for everyone. Same goes for loud music. Bikes don't usually have loud sirens that you can hear over your bumpin' bass. Don't wait to hear the siren before you turn down your jam, because by then it may be too late.

4) See 1-3 and do them always. I don't care where you are; there is always a risk for an accident. Austin roads are narrow, buses are big, and cars drive fast. These three rules can save your life, or at least keep a bike from denting your hood, and that's from first hand experience.

An Open Letter to Bikers:

I know drivers can be dumb. They don't look both ways, and they certainly have trouble sharing the road. I've heard complaints about cars obstructing the already narrow bike lanes, turning right without checking their mirrors for a rider, and just being all-around inconsiderate.

I want to stress how dangerous this can be for you. A one-ton vehicle is not a fun thing when it collides into your body. "Oh, that's so silly! This will never happen to me. These things happen to the lesser folk," you might think while sipping your tea. That's what I used to say too, until I was hit by a car while riding my bike.

Getting hit by a car is expensive: it cost me approximately \$1,500 for a minor accident, not to mention the unquantifiable fear of it happening again. The bruise on my leg still hasn't gone away. Keep in mind, that's for a minor accident. Now imagine it had been more serious. That's not too far reaching of an idea, considering Austin has had the highest increase (42%) in fatal accidents in Texas (according to the recent traffic data survey).

I have seen a lack of helmets, headphones while riding, and riders blazing through red lights, and I'm disgusted. Shout out to you, Girl-who-talked-on-her-phone-while-riding. Austin may be 'Bike Friendly', but that doesn't mean all drivers will be kind. Here is a list of a few ways to not end up a patch of skin on asphalt:

1) Wear a helmet. You won't look stupid, and your hair will look a lot worse with chunks of brain in it. Just buy one, and wear it.

2) Stop at the appropriate places. If no one is at a stop sign, and you don't stop, I'm not going to tell anyone. But you best pump the brakes at a stoplight, because there's a car coming around the corner at 40mph, and when (not if) it hits you, it's going to leave more than a scratch.

3) Be alert. Not only does it significantly decrease your ability to control your bike if you don't have both hands on the handlebars, but your distraction could cost you your life. Just like texting is bad for drivers, talking on the phone and not paying attention is bad for you, too.

4) See 1-3 and do them always. I don't care where you are; there is always a risk for an accident. Austin roads are narrow, buses are big, and cars drive fast. These three rules can save your life, or at least keep a car from running over your arm, and that advice comes from first hand experience.

****NOTE:** Bicycle statistics are often included within 'pedestrian' statistics, given their size and maneuverability. This is not to say they are subject to the same rule of law

■ PATTY SANGER



MIXING MEDIA

AMERICAN MEDIA ABROAD AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA AT HOME

INTERNATIONAL ITUNES UPGRADE

—can't miss artists—
from across the pond

STROMAE

[BELGIAN]
HIP-HOP/HOUSE

REBECCA & FIONA

[SWEDISH]
ELECTRONIC/HOUSE

ALT-J

[ENGLISH]
INDIE ROCK

OH LAND

[SWEDISH]
ALTERNATIVE/INDIE POP

LISA HANNIGAN

[IRISH]
FOLK

Sitting in a plush armchair, I struggled to concentrate on my studies over the sounds of whirring coffee machines, generic jazz music, and buzzing conversation. This Starbucks, my temporary haven from the cold and the rain, was equipped with the familiar furnishings and appliances from back home. But I wasn't home: I was in Paris.

Why, I remember asking myself, would an American coffee chain be so prevalent in what I believed to be the land of delicate pastries and the perfect café crème? The answer, I would come to realize, is that American culture is everywhere. While corporate chains like Starbucks and Kentucky Fried Chicken can be found in many countries worldwide, American media, from film to television to music, has also taken hold and doesn't plan to let go.

I studied abroad in France, a country that is known for its anti-American sentiment and its reluctance to accept American culture with open arms. Still, popular American anthems like Beyoncé's "Single Ladies" and Rihanna's "We Found Love" can be heard much more frequently in dance clubs than French pop songs. Regardless of their fluency in English, my French peers were able to chant the lyrics, despite their accents, right alongside the American students. I asked my friend, Kendrick Pratt, a junior creative writing major at the American University of Paris, why she thought American pop-culture is so prevalent:

"American media is popular with younger generations especially. They listen to a lot of American music and watch American movies in English with French subtitles."

THE FRENCH FEEL THE HEAT

For both French and European citizens alike, film and television are central to their concept of national identity, and losing their control over the market is a major concern. Their fear is not unfounded: American cinema dominates the film industry and has for many years.

protectionist strategies such as quotas on American television imports and large subsidies to French filmmakers. Lowering trade barriers of American audiovisual productions would result in a struggling French film industry going bottom-up.

The problem with a quota on American-produced audiovisual content is the Internet, which allows a global audience to download and watch movies from all over the world. It's extremely simple (if not illegal) to download audiovisual content across national borders. American media is slipping through the cracks in French protectionist policies, but not without a little help from this up-and-coming generation of media consumers.

THE BRITISH AREN'T THREATENED

Other Europeans are not so wary of an American pop-culture invasion

"Here, humor is different. [The English] don't think American comedy is funny...but it's not a language thing. They just don't like it. Older American pop music is played in clubs but what is advertised and talked about is never US artists...there is just such a big UK music scene."

and feel their own products are strong enough to compete. Ashley Sherman, a Texan in her third year of International Business at New York University and who is currently studying in London, says the English are proud of their pop culture.

"Here, humor is different. [The English] don't think American comedy is funny...but it's not a language thing. They just don't like it. Older American pop music is played in clubs but what is advertised and talked about is never US artists...there is just such a big UK

music scene."

THE SWEDISH INVASION

While the British stand firm behind their own popular culture, Sweden has openly accepted American film and television into its audiovisual market. I sat down with my Swedish friend, Ted Johansson, who is working on his Masters in Chemical Engineering here at UT.

According to him, American movies and music are the mainstream and more commonly watched among young people than Swedish media. Sweden's population also has a high level of English-language fluency because Sweden broadcasts American television shows in English with Swedish subtitles.

Like England, Sweden has its own pop culture exports. Swedish music is as popular as American music and has even gained popularity here in the states. I was surprised to hear that some of my favorite musicians like Lykke Li, Icona Pop, The Knife, and The Tallest Man on Earth all hail from Sweden. And most of us have heard of the current gods of house music, Avicii and Swedish House Mafia. Stay tuned, folks—we may be in for a Swedish invasion!

America's position as the global King of Pop may not be something to fight against. Protectionist strategies in the audiovisual arena may just alienate the country that attempts to fight American cultural imports.

France may do better to follow in the footsteps of England and Sweden and accept that popular culture is going to be easier to access today, due to the prevalence of the Internet. I would personally love to hear some of my favorite French artists here in the states, who could possibly gain momentum if France opened its doors to a global media movement. So listen up, France—if you can't beat 'em, join 'em!

■ KEELY WITHEROW

Beyond the Silver Screen

AWARD SHOW POLITICS

The disqualification of “Alone Yet Not Alone” in the Best Original Song category for the 2014 Academy Awards sheds light on the politics of award show season. Hidden behind the curtains, the process more or less mirrors the political landscape of Capitol Hill.

Bruce Broughton, a producer on the track made personal appeals to colleagues and urged them to consider the song. According to the rules of the Academy, DVD's with the songs are meant to be unidentifiable. Allegedly, Broughton identified which of them belonged to him and thus it was deemed not “fair and equitable” by the Academy's rules. Broughton maintains that he didn't ask anyone to vote for the song, or commit any violations of the rules. This verdict has many people calling foul because Broughton is no different from any other Oscar nominee. He is not the first to campaign, and will certainly not be the last.

Behind the Scenes

The Oscars, and pretty much every award show, are littered with back-alley appeals for votes and Washington-style campaigning. Harvey Weinstein, otherwise known as the King of the Academy, has a notorious and long history of hard campaigning before the Academy Awards. Since he and his brother first started Miramax in 1979, he has taken the helm at awards seasons with his films garnering more than 300 nominations to date. Most notably, in 2013 he hired President Obama's campaign manager to strengthen the campaign for *The Silver Linings Playbook*.

Historically, campaigning was quite normal. The year 1950 was an outstanding year for film with movies like *All About Eve*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *The Asphalt Jungle* and *Harvey*—just to name a few. *All About Eve* was the first of only two films to earn 14 Oscar nods. Bette Davis' *Eve* in *All About Eve*, believed the nomination for Supporting Actress downplayed her part for a

nomination in the Best [Lead] Actress category.

The actress campaigned for a lead nod, despite her studio's campaign for a supporting nod. This was the first time two actresses from one film were nominated for the Best Actress Oscar. Many believe this split the vote between the two, turning the vote toward actress Judy Holliday, for her role in *Born Yesterday*.

Strategies for the gold

Presently, Oscar campaigning kicks off in August or September in the preceding year during film festivals

“Calling attention to yourself is really the only way to get ahead in Hollywood because the group of people who get noticed is exclusive”

in Venice and Toronto. Effective campaigning by studio executives will then move to limited screenings with exclusive access for critics and academy members on the East and West coasts.

Upon limited release, “For Your Consideration” adverts begin infiltrating industry publications. Execs will even woo academy members with luncheon and dinner screenings to gain substantial support. The Cohen brothers went so far as to stage a folk concert featuring music from their film *Inside Llewyn Davis*, which garnered only two minor nominations.

Actors will step in at this point and campaign politician-

style with Q&As after special film screenings. They are also expected to work their audience by attending the right events and working the right people. Many critics noted that Matthew McConaughey has done this shamelessly this Oscar season, but certainly not fruitlessly. Even the timing of the premiere of his new show, *True Detective* on HBO, has been considered a campaign move because of the critical praise and positive attention it has brought him. When it comes to voting for winners, the Academy is known for rewarding nominees for a body of work once they feel it is their time.

Snooze and Lose

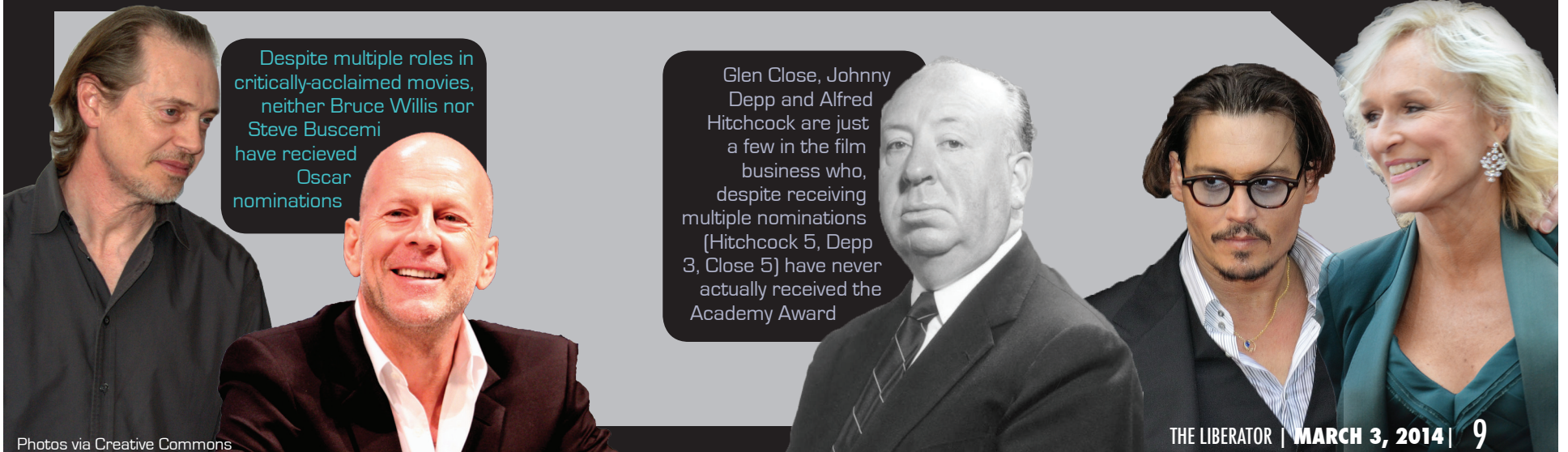
To this day, studio executives, producers and even stars of the film play a huge role in the award show process. These attempts are not always effective, but as Adrienne Teter, a Radio-Television-Film and English major at UT notes it's a “necessary part of the Oscars. Calling attention to yourself is really the only way to get ahead in Hollywood because the group of people who get noticed is exclusive.” James Franco was campaigning for consideration of his role as *Alien* in *Spring Breakers* but received no nominations from any major award show.

Even still, award shows have their favorites, with the Hollywood inner-circle making up most of it. Other times, relative unknowns can get nominated, like recently with *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, because a good story is just a good story.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association that selects Golden Globe winners has a reputation of making their favorites and un-favorites known. Critics often note how the HFPA loves Jennifer Lawrence as much as her audience does. Granted, Harvey Weinstein is the producer behind her wins for *Silver Linings Playbook*.

■ ALEYA NOUR

VICTIMS OF OSCARS POLITICS



Despite multiple roles in critically-acclaimed movies, neither Bruce Willis nor Steve Buscemi have received Oscar nominations

Glen Close, Johnny Depp and Alfred Hitchcock are just a few in the film business who, despite receiving multiple nominations (Hitchcock 5, Depp 3, Close 5) have never actually received the Academy Award



● ● ● TIPS ON BEING A SMART CONSUMER

Current Events: a pair of words that bring grins and grimaces, determination and despair, triumph and tragedy. It is the reason thousands of companies, networks, radio stations, and websites around the word have been created. However, as consumers of news, we have to be careful about the information being spoon-fed to us by sponsored, competitive broadcasting companies. Every story has two sides and each side will try its best to shout the loudest in order to convince the world of its innocence and righteousness. Because of this, it is good to have a healthy dose of suspicion and curiosity. But how can we consumers confirm that the information we are being told is accurate or the truth? Well, here are four tips to help you become a savvy consumer.

1 Look Both Ways Before Crossing the Street

We have heard this saying since kindergarten and, because of its obvious logic, we still obey these instructions as adults. We look left, then right, before crossing a street. Simple, but highly effective. Looking both ways ensures that we do not inadvertently kill ourselves by ignoring fifty percent of the information that could contain potential danger. So why not apply this fantastic safety trick to news?

In a study conducted by Pew Research Center, it was discovered that from 2000 to 2010 the number of Republicans who regularly watch Fox News has increased from 45% to 69%. Furthermore, in 2000, an equal percentage of Republicans and Democrats watched Fox News but by 2010, only 35 % of Democrats continued to do so.¹ These studies support the argument that there is an ever widening polarization between the demographics of network viewers.

Every citizen of this country is allowed to have their own political opinion; however, just because a fashionable, well-groomed anchor of a sponsored news network is telling you something, does not mean that you should blindly accept that information as fact. Even if the information given does agree with your political beliefs, it is wise to glance, even briefly, in the other direction.

News networks have political agendas; they have to in order to separate themselves and be noticed from the dozens of other news groups. This leads to news agencies selecting certain facts, creating facts, or ignoring facts of a story to support their political program. As intelligent consumers, we can dodge their political maneuverings by

gathering facts from multiple sources and determining for ourselves what is the true story. By watching, reading, and listening to multiple informants, we are safeguarding our political opinion from hearsay, political slants, and bias. Looking both ways before crossing the street guarantees one hundred percent visibility for the smart consumer.

2 Respect? Respect.

As mentioned before, every citizen of this country is allowed to have his or her own political opinion, whatever it may be.

In America, we seem to have an easy time accepting this right for ourselves but not so much for other people. This

Dramatic music, fancy set-ups, innovative camera techniques, attractive anchors, and hi-tech equipment have been added [to news programs] to amplify the attention-grabbing aspect of news. So much has been added that the word 'infotainment' was coined to describe the end product of news that exists today.

reluctant of other viewpoints is prevalent in today's newscast. Disparaging language, incredible lack of understanding and belittling of other parties has taken over political discussions and debates on both sides.

This is not healthy nor is it professional. This verbal squabbling between parties not only creates an ever widening divide of irritation between parties, but it also encourages this kind of disrespectful behavior to be

practiced by viewers.

As a country, we need to become smarter consumers by simply reminding ourselves that every citizen is allowed to have a political opinion. Every citizen of this country deserves respect and should reciprocate by respecting others. We are not children on a playground arguing about something menial. We are adults who should be able to put extreme emotions aside and debate with intelligence, logic, and factual information about the issues that face our country. A smart consumer respects themselves, others, and the gravity of the topics being discussed.

3 Read All About It!

Innovative technology has improved our life-style, allowed the impossible to become only slightly so, and enabled us to talk to someone on the other side of the planet. But this increase in technology has also forced the 'old-fashioned' the 'traditional' to compete with the 'new' and 'modern'. Sports now have to compete with virtual MMO worlds, books now have to compete with Kindle, and newspapers have to compete with television and the internet. And the entertainment factor, once not so important, has become the centerpiece to every activity.

News channels especially have heightened their attempts to entertain their viewers and attract more. Dramatic music, fancy set-ups, innovative camera techniques, attractive anchors, and hi-tech equipment have all been added in order to amplify the attention-grabbing aspect of news. So much has been added that the word 'infotainment' was coined to describe the end product of news that exists today. This is all well and good, far be it that that broadcasting stays in the dark ages, but the performance put on by news networks can become overwhelming. By reading a journal, all bells and whistles are removed and what is left is simply the facts.

In a study conducted by the Oxford University Press, research was done on the dimensionality of TV-news exposure. Their results 'show that TV news exposure—and subsequently its effects—differs from exposure to other news media such as newspapers or online news sources.'

We must accept that we cannot be entertained all the time. A smart consumer understands that sometimes we



must read to be informed, and some stories need to be read in earnest.

4 BE a Consumer

No matter what you believe in, where you come from, what you look like, if you are living in this country, then you are an American. Everything that happens in this great nation effects you in some way, shape, or form. Now, whether these

The U.S. voter turnout has not risen above 70% since 1948. Other well established democracies like Sweden, Austria, Australia, Chile, Belgium, and Italy have voter turnouts close to 80 and 90%

happenings are positive or negative unique to every individual. But what is not unique, what every person in this country has, is a voice. A voice that can speak, eyes that can read, ears that can listen, and a brain that can think; every citizen has these tools that can be used to influence inevitable change.

However, to influence change you need to be aware of change. We Americans need to be informed, interested, and involved in our country's actions. For example, the voter turnout in our country for 2012 presidential election was 59 percent. This

means 41 percent of registered voters in America did not participate in voting for the President of the United States. In fact, the voter turnout has never risen above 70 percent since 1948. Other well established democracies like Sweden, Austria, Australia, Chile, Belgium, and Italy have voter turnouts close to 80 and 90 percent.

Passive apathy for major political decisions is something that must be changed. Otherwise, we will continue to become frustrated with a government representing a populace that has no interest in being represented. A smart consumer is a consumer. And if you are going to be a consumer, might as well be a smart one.

■ MADELEINE KENNEY



Resources Cited:

Wonneberger, Anke, Klaus Schoenbach, and Lex Van Meurs. "Dimensionality of TV-news Exposure: Mapping News Viewing Behavior with People-Meter Data." *Public Opinion Research* 25.1 (2012): 87-107. Oxford Journals. Web. 14 Feb. 2014. <<http://ijpor.oxfordjournals.org/content/25/1/87.abstract>>.

Levendusky, Matthew. "Who Watches Partisan Television News?" *How Partisan Media Polarize America*. Chicago: University of Chicago, 2013. 13-14. Print.

"FairVote.org." FairVote. The Center for Voting and Democracy, 2013. Web. 13 Feb. 2014.

The Rachal Maddow Show
BBC
Diane Sawyer
NPR
Reuters.com
USA Today
HardBall with Chris Mathews
PBS - Face the Nation
CSPAN
60 Minutes



celebrations of the spring

SOME TRADITIONS OF SPRING FROM AROUND THE WORLD

What about Easter?

.....
Have you ever taken a moment to think about how weird it is that we celebrate it with a bunny delivering us candy in eggs? Turns out we're not the only country with strange Easter traditions...
.....

AUSTRALIA

Australia is the biggest consumer of Easter eggs in the world...but less than fond of rabbits. They celebrate with the Easter Bilby instead
.....

FRANCE

Event stranger, in France eggs are delivered by flying church bells, which are said to take a vacation to Rome from Good Friday to Easter Morning
.....

POLAND

The Polish make a lamb out of butter that must be present for the priest's blessing, and is to be consumed during the Easter meal, tail to head
.....

GERMANY

In a Christmas/Easter blending of tradition, Germans decorate trees with Easter eggs as part of their holiday celebration
.....

CZECH REPUBLIC

Finally, Czechs and Slovaks maintain a tradition of lightly hitting women with small braided whips to promote their happiness in the coming year

Austinites barely survived the snowpocalypse that was upon us this winter. The roads were a breeding ground for accidents, ice covered stairs and sidewalks, and leaving one's apartment became synonymous with a death wish.

During this time, we could all relate to Frozen's Olaf when he said "Winter's a good time to stay in and cuddle, but put me in summer and I'll be a...happy snowman!" So while we desperately anticipate the hot Texas sun, it might be good to talk about Spring and what melting frost and summer sun mean to other cultures.

TO A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Spring indicates a new year and a new beginning. Baby animals are born and seeds are planted. To many peoples, like the Chinese and the Iranians, Spring symbolizes the New Year.

It is said that long ago, a mythical monster named Nian attacked the people of China. In order to protect themselves, their children, and livestock the people would lay out a feast on the first of every New Year, meant for Nian. Later, the villagers learned that Nian was frightened of the color red and began hanging red lanterns and scrolls on their doors to keep her away.

Today, the Spring Festival represents good luck, longevity, happiness and prosperity. The celebrations can last up to fifteen days, every day holding its own tradition. For example, on the second day families visit each other and exchange money in red envelopes, prayers are offered on the ninth day, and near the end on the thirteenth day only vegetarian food is served.

Iran also celebrates its New Year by welcoming the Spring in a holiday

called Nowruz which literally translates to new day. Nowruz has spread to many different countries and is celebrated both as a secular and religious holiday.

In Pakistan, eggs are painted and traded among friends to symbolize the Earth, and in Turkey, the Kurds light fires and dance. Within some Shia and Sufi traditions, communal

.....
Spring indicates a new year and a new beginning. Baby animals are born and seed are planted...to many people Spring symbolizes the new year
.....

prayers are held to welcome a blessed and successful New Year. Just like the Chinese New Year, during Nowruz, families visit each other and exchange well wishes and gifts.

A TIME TO FEAST

Russians welcome the Spring in a more delicious and unconventional way with Maslenitsa, also known as Pancake Week. Like Nowruz, this is a religious and secular celebration. Maslenitsa is celebrated during the last week of Great Lent at a time when Orthodox Christians abstain from meat.

Pancakes are indulged in because they symbolize the warmth of the sun which

helps melt the frozen earth. They are made in large quantities and shared among friends and family served with an assortment of toppings: sour cream, mushrooms, and butter! Maslenitsa is a weeklong celebration that consists of family gatherings and prayers. After Thursday all work is prohibited and people occupy their time with sledging, snowball fights, and gift giving.

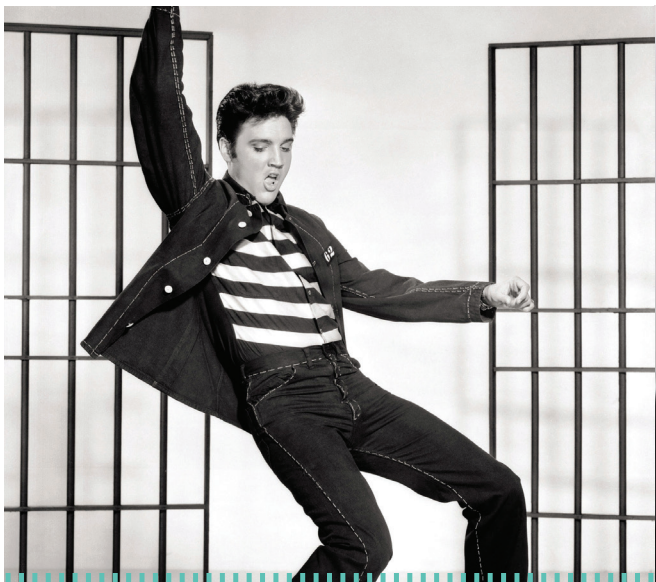
AND OF COURSE, HOLI

For a more local celebration, every year the Hindu Student Association celebrates the Spring with Holi, otherwise known as the festival of colors, at UT. It is believed that Holi originated as a way for wives to pray for the benefit of their families. Today, it has become a way to welcome the Spring with bright colors, water balloons, and dancing.

Holi begins the night before the anointed day. A large bonfire is erected and people sing and dance around the fire. The next day, people flood the streets with bags of colored dyes. Due to the diversity in India, different parts of the country have varying traditions. In Gujarat girls and boys reenact the mischievous acts of Krishna and Radha. As the girls distract the boys, they try to grab a pot strung high above. Krishna and Radha are holy figures who represent love and playfulness.

Spring is fast approaching and there is a lesson to be taken from the cultures of the world. It is a time for new beginnings and positivity. The ice has melted and lawn is ready to be occupied once again. And let's enjoy it before Summer is here, with lows of 95 degrees.

■ AISHA ALI



THE SCHOLAR

THE ELUSIVENESS OF COOL

I struggle with the meaning of “cool”. While thinking about that word, I am bombarded by possible explanations. Perhaps it has nothing to do with material objects, like clothing or accessories; and instead, cool is something that emanates from an individual’s personality and swagger.

But then I think of why I learned guitar. Like most kids, I was under the impression that if I bought a guitar and could play it well enough to impress people, I would be considered cool. I was 11 years old, and my concept of what was cool deviated from musicians. The secret, I thought, was the guitars. Not necessarily how well they played the instrument, but the style and brand of the guitar, specifically. So there is something material in how someone goes about being cool.

And yet there are other elements that should be accounted for. Maybe being cool is a matter of consensus. There is a general agreement among most people who are currently alive that Leonardo DiCaprio is totally boss. (Dissenters of this fact be damned.) If enough people worship you, then that’s all it takes to be cool? Perhaps it all comes down to confidence. Or maybe talent? All I can say is this: the meaning of cool has eluded me my whole life.

I can only remember one time when I felt genuinely cool. I was in the 2nd grade, and the school’s music teacher organized a play called “Blast from the Past”. The play showcased short musical numbers drawn from television programs from the 50s, 60s and early 70s, shows such as the Flintstones, the Brady Bunch, and Gilligan’s Island. The teacher picked me to be a part of the program’s section devoted to the Ed Sullivan Show. I was to play Elvis Presley.

As an avid listener of his music, I was honored to recreate the King’s persona on stage and quickly sought to immerse myself in the role. I watched concert films to memorize his stage presence; practiced in front of a mirror to mimic his hip shaking; sang only Elvis songs for months; learned to forge his signature and handed out autographs to my classmates. Nailing down his stage persona consumed my free time. The only mannerism I never managed

//////
elu·sive (adjective)
: difficult to find, catch
or achieve
: difficult to remember
or recall
//////

to perfect, despite hours of practice, was curling the upper-ride side of my lip, a minor detail that made Elvis fans swoon.

“Now ladies and gentlemen,” said the miniature Ed Sullivan the night of the play (he was also played by a 2nd grader), “The man you’ve been waiting for. Elvis Presley!”

Dressed in white bell-bottoms and an open collar blouse and donning an Elvis wig (a costume invoking the “fat phase” of Elvis’s career), I ascended onto the stage to mass applause and, if my memory is correct, screaming women.

With a toy guitar slung around my neck, I lip-sang along to “Hound Dog”, my legs flapping in synch to the song’s rhythm. At

one point I threw the scarf hanging around my neck to a pair of teachers in poodle skirts who stormed the stage in a state of frenzy. For two minutes in a packed gymnasium in Bushland Elementary School, I stood on the top of the world, basking in my own brief celebrity.

My moment of cool peaked at age 8. In the 15 years since that performance, I’ve fumbled with the idea of cool. In high school, I revolted against being cool, though deep down I secretly wanted it. My adversaries were the cool kids. They were popular, and their popularity stemmed from their ability to play sports well. The cosmos of high school revolved around them. Why couldn’t it revolve around me instead? But my shaggy stoner appearance had passed its expiration date by some thirty years. Listening to Bob Dylan and Led Zeppelin wasn’t “in” anymore. Now I just avoid thinking about it. I’ve decided it is outside of my ability to be cool.

I sometimes catch myself thinking about the night I played Elvis in the school play, and I wonder if my memory of that night is accurate. I don’t remember what people thought of my performance. I didn’t bother to ask.

At the time, I thought my appearance on stage sent the audience into hysteria, much like Elvis did to audiences forty years ago. That’s how it looks when I replay that moment in my head. But I probably mistook frenzy for amusement. Perhaps the audience, which was most likely full of adults who had grown up listening to Elvis, was just having a good time. But I know how I felt then, and I sometimes feel it still. I felt cool.

■ JACOB TROUBLEFIELD

OTHER THINGS THAT ELUDE ME

Dave Matthews Band

How did this band become so popular?
Why does anyone still listen to this band? What’s all the hype about? I don’t understand.

A cat living in my neighborhood

I think it’s feral, but it seems nice. Every time I try to catch it, the bugger gets away.

My glasses

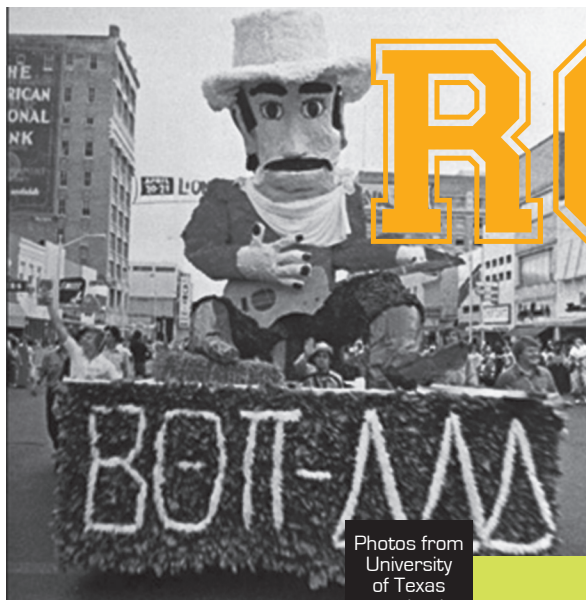
When I wake up each morning, they’re not where I placed them the night before. I’m left groping around my room half-blind like Velma from “Scooby Doo” trying to find them.

Names of people

Immediately after meeting someone, I will not remember his or her name.

Most of what I’ve read in preparation for a class

I come to discussion sections well prepared, but once the discussion starts, I can’t recall what I’ve read.



Photos from University of Texas yearbook archives

ROUND-UP

a history

FORTY ACRES FEST

IN 1973 Round-Up was split into unaffiliated events. 40 Acres Fest became the UT sponsored event, while the Interfraternity Council took over Round-Up.

Today, Texas Traditions organizes the annual Forty Acres Fest, a campus-wide festival featuring unique booths and entertainment by 200+ on-campus student organizations. This free event allows student organizations to showcase their creativity and diversity. Past attractions have included caricature artists, rock climbing wall, competitive eating contests, funnel cakes, drum wars, photo booths, and much more! The event culminates with a live concert by some of the world's most legendary artists such as Big Boi and Girl Talk.

This Year's Forty Acres Fest 2014 is scheduled for Saturday, March 22, 2014

There is nothing like spring time in Austin. The sun is always out and the temperature is warm, but not enough to cause an uncomfortable sweat. Everyone seems to be rejuvenated and recovered from the winter blues. One late March weekend in particular is infamous for college students capitalizing on this weather.

This nonstop weekend is known as Round-Up, but depending on when you attended the University of Texas, it may not look like the same one you celebrated 40 years ago. While Round-Up is currently known for its neon tank tops, crawfish boils, and parties with big name rappers, the weekend's origins couldn't be more different.

IN THE BEGINNING

Since its 1930s beginning, 'the weekend to end all weekends' has meant parades and carnivals to UT students. Round-up was first held on the weekend of April 11th, 1930, and was hosted by Student Government.

It started as a homecoming event to "round-up" Texas Exes; several thousand students, parents, ex-students, and visitors came to Austin to reminisce at parties, reunions, and celebrations. There were barbecues, the Round-Up Revue and Ball, and music. The honored guests at the original 1930 Round-Up were members of the University Class of 1880.

Before 1941, over 7,000 invitations were sent out to students and parents informing everyone, near and far, of the festivities and celebrations what they would entail. However, from 1941-1945 no invitations were sent outside of Austin. Round-Up was a local affair, courtesy of World War II, as gasoline rationing prohibited the ex-students from attending and no parades were held.

After the war, the parades became longer, the dances became larger, and the expenses began to mount. Towards the 1950s, students began to lose interest and didn't want to spend so much money on a weekend for alumni. Thus, Round-Up transitioned to go beyond the usual celebration and emphasized the educational aspects of UT life.

During this time activities were centered on the campus and University progress. Round-Up, which until 1960 had been merely a weekend affair, stretched into a 10-day festival. The Round-Up days were known as the busiest 240 hours of the school year.

TRANSITION TO THE GREEKS

Responsibilities of Round-Up were passed from an uninterested Student Government to the Interfraternity Council (IFC) after 1973. A hot air balloon race at Zilker

Park began the first IFC sponsored Round-Up. On Sunday afternoon the parade ended the week with fourteen floats down Congress to the Capitol.

According to the Texas Exes website, "the Ex-Students' Association began to sponsor its own spring homecoming, or Round-Up, and IFC assumed responsibility for continuation of 'student Round-Up.'" The Ex-Students' Association discontinued support for Round-Up in the early 90s, when the annual Forty Acre Fest took its place.

In 1973, the activities became a mainly Greek Event and remain so today. Current IFC President Edwin Qian said, "As Greek members, we are incredibly proud that we can host one of the most envied and celebrated weekends in the country. Not only that, but with all the connections I've made both in an outside my fraternity, I am proud to see that for a weekend, it doesn't matter what chapter you're in or what you do. All of Greek life comes together to put on entertainment for the university, and they do so using real world savvy."

ROUND-UP TODAY

Today, Round-Up is still a very popular event among Greek life that is open to all college students, Greek affiliated or not. Many sororities hold events with food and face painters throughout the weekend to raise money for national and local philanthropic organizations including St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Make a Wish Foundation, and Service for Sight.

There is a lot more that goes on behind the scenes while planning events for Round-Up. Qian said, "Chapters that plan and execute roundup events not only learn to work with outside vendors, but they also (as a committee and with their chapters leaders) execute proper risk management procedures to ensure students can have fun and be safe doing it. It really breaks the stereotype that Greek life is reckless or indifferent. In fact it's very much quite the opposite and is in many ways a culmination of lessons that being in the Greek community offers students."

Despite the party reputation, Round-Up has a long history of tradition and unifying UT. Before you pass judgments about Greek life or anyone in neon, try attending one of the many events, and recognize all of the work that has gone into this weekend. Round-Up was meant to bring together all UT students for a weekend of entertainment and fun.

As Qing said, "It's celebrating the hard work UT students put into their studies and if you work hard, you deserve some R&R."

■ MEGAN PALOMBO



1930s

ROUND UP CREATED BY UT STUDENT GOVERNMENT

1973

SEPARATION BETWEEN 40 ACRES FEST & ROUND-UP

2014

ROUND UP 2014 WILL BE TAKING PLACE THE WEEKEND OF 3/21

7 of the best ways
to pass the time in &
around Austin

alternative spring break

Stuck in ATX over the break? We've got you covered

Spring break is just around the corner, and that means two things: West Campus is going to be deserted, and downtown Austin is going to convert into an overcrowded mess with the annual SXSW festival. The festival might have some awesome parties, secret shows, and seminars but it's expensive and getting lost in those crowds and traffic is not fun. Here are some things you can do that aren't SXSW while you're in Austin

RxSM Self-Medicated Film Expo March 6 - 13

For those film enthusiasts with an edgier taste than SXSW likes to offer, this is the film festival for you. According to their website, it's "dedicated to edgy, boundary-expanding storytelling that falls well outside of the mainstream." The movies screened are not all feature-length films; many of them are student submitted shorts. Some of the full-length films include *Isip the Warrior*, a story about a Mormon man on a mission; *Little Hope Was Arson*, a documentary about the burning down of 10 churches in East Texas and *Love Child*, the story of a child that died because its South Korean parents were obsessed with video games. Admission to this festival is completely free, and the schedule and locations of the screenings are on their website. <http://www.rxsm.org/>

Alternative Spring Break March 10 - 14

If you're into community service, get a few friends together and find a cool 'alternative' spring break (or "ASB" as many people like to call it) project to do. ASB can be a planned trip for service or just a fun community service project to do with friends - not only will it feel great but you'll be doing something productive. These activities take some planning but there's always something you can do. Contact the Austin Habitat for Humanity, get your certification

at Austin Pets Alive, go talk to some people at Casa Marianella, or make up your own project with another local charity. Getting a few friends together and flying out to another city can be loads of fun, and do a lot of good. With some planning, next year you can make a trip out to areas like D.C., Baltimore, San Francisco, and Tennessee, which often struggle to find volunteers. Fees are around \$250-350, and the trip is sponsored by United Way. <http://www.unitedway.org/take-action/alternative-spring-break/>.

Rodeo Austin March 1 - 16

For some real Texas culture, Rodeo Austin is the place to be. Bringing artists, bull riding, carnivals, food, livestock shows together with so much more, all you have to do is put on your cowboy boots and two-step your way over. Ticket prices vary depending on the activities you want to do, from an \$8 ticket for the fairground to concert/rodeo tickets costing \$40+. Some of the singers coming to Rodeo Austin include country stars Eli Young Band, Lee Brice, Scott McCreery, Thompson Square and many more. For those of you who enjoy a different style of music, Capital Cities is going to perform so keep an eye out for tickets. <http://www.rodeoaustin.com/>

Music Saves Lives in Austin March 12 - 15

This music festival is hosted by Music

Saves Lives, an organization that educates people about donating blood, running blood drives and registering for the marrow program to help save those with leukemia and other blood disorders, and uses all forms of entertainment to get the word out. This year it's going to be held at Firehouse Lounge & Hostel from March 12 - 15th. Tickets cost whatever you want to donate and the set list isn't out, but it's a great alternative to the SXSW music festival and it's for a good cause. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/music-saves-lives-in-austin-tickets-10344052339>

Rock Your Camo 5K/Fun Run March 8

If you want to start off your Spring Break with a healthy activity, think about registering for the Rock Your Camo 5K, which honors women veterans. It's only \$20 if you're a civilian and it goes towards a good cause, plus you get a goody bag, a t-shirt, lunch and entertainment. The trail runs around Camp Mabry off Mo-Pac and 35th. Also, there's a contest (with prizes!) for participants who go all out with their camo gear and for the largest group of costumed runners, so get your friends or organization to join in too. <http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Rock-your-Camo.aspx>

Rosedale Ride March 22

Biking and Austin fit together like

a foot in a pedal, so of course there's going to be some kind of bike race going on during spring break. The Rosedale Ride is a benefit race for the Rosedale Foundation whose mission is to support the students of Rosedale School, Austin ISD's only school for children with multiple disabilities. The cost for registration is \$50 for adults and trail lengths include 26, 42, and 62-mile courses to choose from. Register as soon as possible because the price for signing up increases as the event nears. <https://www.bikereg.com/Net/rosedale-ride-20th-annual>.

Camping

Camping is a great way to go out with friends, get away from the city, and not have to hit your parents up for money. Most of the campsites in and around Austin are free or only cost around \$10-20 per campsite (pretty cheap if you split the cost in a group). The RecSports center rents out camping gear, so there can be no excuses. Thankfully, Central Texas has a lot of campsites to offer, with the more popular ones only about half an hour to an hour away (did someone say roadtrip?). Inks Lake State Park, McKinney Falls State Park, Krause Springs, Blanco State Park, and the Pedernales Falls State Park are all great options for those of us looking for some adventure. <http://www.utrecsports.org/adventure-and-climbing/outdoor-center>

■ NATALIA NARANJO

LEGISLATION RECAP

SR. 1306

In Support of an Extended
Thanksgiving Break

PASSED

SR. 1307

Calling for the Creation of Research
Bridging Disciplines Program

PASSED

SR. 1308

Promoting the Use of the Interactive
Degree Audit

PASSED

SR. 1309

Calling for the Creation of
a Transfer Student Office

PASSED

SR. 1310

In Support of Expanding the Use of
Lecture Capture in Classrooms

PASSED

CAMPUS UPDATES

LEGISLATION UPDATE

S.R. 1310, In Support of Expanding the Use of Lecture Capture in Classrooms, will show deans, administrators, and IT teams across campus that students support the availability of the lecture capture technology in classrooms.

This legislation was first inspired due to the desire of accommodating students with disabilities better, as many students cannot come to class, cannot take adequate notes, have trouble hearing, etc. Having more lecture capture in classrooms would allow professors to record their classes and have them available for students in need of them.

Apart from just benefiting students with disabilities, lecture capture has shown to be largely

beneficial as an additional study tool for students (more information at <http://sites.la.utexas.edu/lecturecapture/>). Students can focus more on the interaction and discussions during class and get the physical information later from the video - they can even review as many times as they want!

Of course, lecture capture won't be beneficial for some classes as much as it will be to others, but giving the professor an opportunity to use that tool is what this legislation supports.

■ JUDY HONG, CO-AUTHOR OF S.R. 1310

send comments to
theliberator.lac@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SPRING BREAK MARCH 10-15

MARCH 10-15
SPRING BREAK

MARCH 31
LAST DAY AN UG MAY (W/ DEAN'S
APPROVAL) DROP A CLASS

APRIL 14-25
REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER
AND FALL SEMESTER

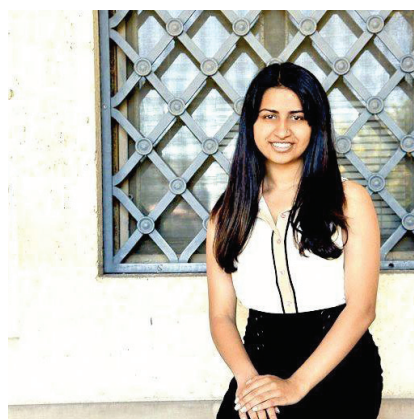
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	MARCH
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						

THE OUTLET

CAMPUS LIFE, POP CULTURE, MINUTIAE.
MUNDANE OR INSPIRING, THE LIBERATOR SHARES ITS
THOUGHTS ON... WELL... EVERYTHING.

SENATE UPDATE

Meet the newly elected executive board of Senate:

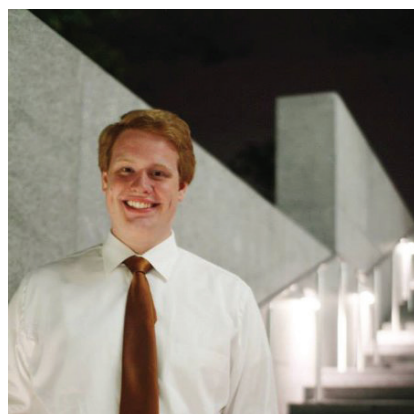


President: Geetika Jerath

A member of Liberal Arts Council, Geetika plans to create a more efficient and transparent environment for the councils and internal Senate as well as develop a multi-platform branding campaign utilizing social media and collaborative events with councils among many other things. With her experience in many campus organizations such as CTBAC, Phi Alpha Delta, the Invest in Texas campaign and other organizations, she has had a lot of experience at being a leader. We can't wait what Geetika will do in the coming year with the rest of the executive board.

Vice-President: Yaneli Rubio

Yaneli Rubio has served as an at-large member and chair for the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee in her time at the 40 Acres. She recently came back from her study abroad program in Paris and already has some great ideas for her job as VP of Senate. Yaneli wants to have an open channel of communication with the college councils by establishing office hours and creating mobile access to important documents. Like Geetika, Yaneli wants to create a bigger student base for the Invest in Texas campaign; she also wants to collect student feedback to better shape university programs.



Financial Director: David Engleman

Yet another member of Liberal Arts Council, and our current Financial Director, David will now serve as the FD for Senate in the next year. With his experience in LAC, he has shown his dedication to transparency. His hard work at creating financial reports for the council and bringing to light certain budgeting issues, Senate will be in good hands. As Senate grows, David plans to create semester financial reports for Senate as well as make sure that all councils have a fair allocation of appropriations.

HOW DO YOU TAKE YOUR NEWS?

Concise, witty and free from anything that resembles a .gif of a furry animal
#sorryBuzzfeed #TheOnioncanstay
-Madhu Singh

Factual and nonpartisan. Which seems to be a bit of a niche ability at this point.
-Patty Sanger

Pretty shaken.... but not too stirred?
-Omar Gamboa

I like my news yelled at me by Nancy Grace. The more condescending it is the better.
-Jacob Troublefield

(Lays down Millennial Card) I like getting my news on my phone, from various outlets, and as it happens...for free.
-Cassie Maneen

I tend to just have my mom send me articles on the important stuff...
-Kellie Stone

I mostly read articles online from NBC. Or I watch the Daily Show or Diane Sawyer on Hulu
-Madeleine Kenney

Short and to the point, with a link to a longer article if my interest is peaked
-Kelly de Moya

I like watching current political, social, or cultural documentaries that really let you experience the event.
-Keely Witherow

I like my news read out loud to me by Amy Poehler and Tina Fey
-Megan Palombo

I like my news delivered by Jon Stewart.
-Natalia Naranjo

PROTESTING THE TORCH

A HISTORY OF OLYMPIC PROTESTS

The Olympics: an international competition that demonstrates the amazing physical abilities of the world's greatest athletes. I'm sure if a Martian were to watch the Olympics, he would initially believe that such a gathering was meant to promote peace, and that these games are a great tool in easing international tension. They seem like they would distract the masses from arguing over which of them can build the biggest bomb by having them instead argue over who can produce the best athletes. But if this Martian were to research the history of the Olympics, he would understand that the gravity of these monumental Games often attracts boycotts by civil rights groups and, to a more severe degree, entire countries. In fact, the Olympic Games rarely take place without some sort of boycott occurring.

CONTROVERSIAL GAMES

In the 1908 games, the US kicked off the string of Olympic controversy by refusing to dip its flag to King Edward VII. The US captain explained how the stars and stripes "dip to no earthly king." The US tradition of refusing to dip its flag has continued since, while much heavier controversy ensued in the following decades.

The wars of the early 20th century plagued the Games, with the 1916, 1940, and 1944 Games being cancelled. In the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics, an Italian athlete gave a fascist salute when receiving his medal on the podium.

The unrest continued through the 1936 Games in Berlin, which were dominated by Nazi propaganda. Jewish groups adamantly boycotted these games, and the US participated only after Avery Brundage, President of the American Olympic Committee, managed to overcome calls for a US boycott. Hitler hoped to display the apparent genetic superiority of the German people, only to be humiliated by the black US athlete Jesse Owens, who won four gold medals. Believe it or not, the Nazi organizers of the 1936 Games created the iconic torch relay ceremony.

As the Cold War ripened, the Olympics were further imbued with controversy. After the Soviet crushing of the Hungarian Revolution, the Netherlands, Spain, and

Switzerland stayed away from the 1956 Melbourne Games. Following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, 62 countries led by the US, did not participate in the 1980 Moscow Games. In the following Los Angeles Games, the Soviets retaliated with an Eastern bloc boycott.

MOMENTS OF PEACE

It seems at this point that politics was more important than allowing athletes to do what they do best: compete. It is disheartening that something

"THE HUMANE PARAGRAPHS
IN THE OLYMPIC CHARTER ARE
A FIG LEAF. THESE PEOPLE
HAVE NO STANDARDS APART
FROM THE SUCCESS OF THEIR
VERSION OF SHOW-BUSINESS
INTERNATIONALISM"

as glorious as international athletic competition is victimized time after time by the conflicts of international politics. Have the Olympics ever gone on without boycotts?

Thankfully, a few games, here and there, were allowed to pass on without much controversy. The Seoul Games were relatively calm following the Soviet boycott of '84, despite North Korea's refusal to attend after being denied co-host status.

The 1992 Barcelona Games were something of an anomaly, considering the fact that

they were largely free of protests. The Centennial Olympic Park bombing, however, marred the 1996 Atlanta Games. A security guard found the pipe bomb and notified law enforcement immediately, resulting in only 2 deaths and 111 wounded (compared to the thousands that would have been harmed if the bomb had gone unnoticed). The 2000 Sydney Olympics were considered the smoothest games ever in terms of boycotts, while Athens went along similarly, despite a hefty toll on its economy.

WHY WE WON'T ALL GET ALONG

So why can't more Games go on with the smoothness that we saw with Athens, Sydney, and Barcelona? John Hoberman, a professor of Germanic Studies with extensive experience covering and researching international sporting events here at UT, reveals an interesting point:

"What happens in each case is that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) decides to go into business with an oppressive regime. Examples of this kind of political bargain would be the 1968 Mexico City Olympic Games and the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games. The explanation that accounts for this behavior is that the IOC has no moral, ethical, or political principles apart from promotion of what they take to be their own prestige."

This irresponsibility in selecting the location of the Games results in the various boycotts and controversies, which are now a part of Olympic history.

"The humane paragraphs in the Olympic Charter are a fig leaf. These people have no standards apart from the success of their version of show-business internationalism." It's unfortunate that the IOC is unwilling to correct itself after so many incidents of unrest. The rough publicity the Games have often received could have been avoided if the location of the Games were selected with more accountability.

It seems that controversy and boycotts will plague the Olympic Games as long as the IOC continues act without the principles Dr. Hoberman mentioned above. Hopefully, when the torch is passed to a younger generation, the Olympics will be managed more responsibly with respect to the locations in which they are held.

■ JAMES BALAGIA

GROUND BREAKING MOMENTS IN OLYMPIC HISTORY

WHILE THE OLYMPICS HAS HAD MANY GAMES THAT ENDED IN PROTESTING, THERE WERE SEVERAL YEARS THAT HAD MOMENTS WORTH CELEBRATING

1900

Female athletes compete for the 1st time (Paris)

1936

Jesse Owens breaks records & befriends German opponent (Berlin)

1948

Beginnings of Paralympic games, wounded veterans of WWII race (London)

1960

First televised Olympic Games (Rome)

1968

Athletes John Carlos & Tommie Smith performed Black Power salute in support of civil rights during medal ceremony (Mexico City)

1996

Muhammed Ali lights torch at the 100th Olympic games despite his struggles with Parkinsons (Atlanta)

2004

Medal design replaced for historical accuracy (Athens)

From Russia With {limited} Love

the 2014 Olympics in Sochi will be remembered as the one characterized by protests on Russian gay rights. One of our writers gives some in-depth insight into Russia's history on the topic and how the current situation came about



The ban on “homosexual propaganda” in Russia sparked international outrage, inciting protests like these. To the left are demonstrators with posters of Putin in drag make-up, protesting the Olympic games in light of this development. To the right, protestors painted a crosswalk in front of the Russian embassy in Hungary.

via CreativeCommons.org

In the early 2000s, Russian pop charts were dominated by a song “Not Gonna Get Us,” performed by a Russian lesbian duo, t.A.T.u. The first Russian band to sell millions of records in the West, the duo represented Russia in the 2003 Eurovision Song Contest, a widely-publicized event where European nations showcase the best of their contemporary musicians. Many journalists and scholars believed the band's sexuality was merely a provocative stunt to display Russia's “progressive” society.

THE CONTROVERSIAL LAW

Ten years have passed since the short-lived liberal period of the early 2000s. In June of 2013, the Russian Parliament added a controversial amendment to the 2010 law, “On Protection of Children from Information Harmful to Their Health and Development.” The amendment included “non-traditional sexual relations” as a type of information harmful to children.

Individuals, media groups, foreigners, gay-rights organizations, all sources of information and entertainment – anyone who is propagandizing “non-traditional sexual relations” will face punishment, ranging from fines of 4000 rubles (\$114) to time in jail.

International media and political leaders of many nations have harshly condemned this law, arguing that it will perpetuate and increase intolerance towards members of Russia's already-struggling LGBT community. The image and discussion of the XXII Olympic Winter Games in Sochi have been tainted by the anti-gay legislation, as many politicians and entertainment figures urged a boycott of the games.

A CLIMATE OF INTOLERANCE

Scholars of Russian culture and history assert that the law complements Russians' historically antagonistic views towards homosexuality. The Moscow Times reports that 87% of Russians oppose gay parades. President Vladimir Putin, whose public image for many Russians represents masculinity and strength, has personally supported the new legislation. The law prohibits all representations of homosexuality, including those in films, plays and art. Many productions of plays and movies have been carefully regulated to ensure that any depiction of a homosexual lifestyle is not made

public.

During the Soviet era, homosexuality was harshly condemned, and was punishable by a prison sentence and even death. Since the early 1990s, the freedom of speech has gained importance in Russia and the former Soviet states. When the government of Boris

Professor Garza asserts that the politicians' connection of homosexuality with pedophilia is “a distractor” and is so “misguided, that it fails to make a connection between the two because it doesn't actually exist”

Yeltsin decriminalized homosexuality in 1993, Russia experienced a new era of freedom, in which heavily sexualized material was presented in the media and art.

REACTION TO CENSORSHIP

With the election of Putin in 2000, an era of new conservatism consumed political matters, as well as the media. There were no laws prohibiting homosexuality, but the government targeted individual media outlets that were deemed inappropriate, such as MTV Russia, some liberal journals and other media outlets.

UT Professor and expert on Russian history and culture, Thomas Garza, asserts that the recently-passed law is “a new twist” in Putin's conservative regime, because “Russia has been proud of the fact that, since the collapse of the Soviet Union, it's tried to adopt constitutional policies that are very much in line with

the European Union and the rest of the West.”

Professor Garza asserts that the politicians' connection of homosexuality with pedophilia is “a distractor” and is so “misguided, that it fails to make a connection between the two because it doesn't actually exist.”

THE EFFECT ON THE MASSES

While homosexuality is still legal in Russia, the new ban on homosexual propaganda ensures that the public is not exposed to it, making the legislation a form of “Don't Ask Don't Tell.” In a recent interview, President Vladimir Putin pointed out that Russia is not one of the 83 countries where homosexuality is illegal, but the coverage of the Winter Olympic Games has been heavily associated with the controversial law. While dozens of nations where homosexuality is illegal have hosted international sport events, Russia, arguably, has received a much tougher wave of criticism.

On my recent trip to Moscow, I have discussed the issue with many young liberal people who, nevertheless, hold antagonistic views towards homosexuality. Western criticism of the anti-homosexual law can either worsen the negative attitude towards homosexuality in Russia, or spark a vibrant discussion regarding the issue.

One of the performers at the opening ceremony of the Winter Games in Sochi was the band t.A.T.u. The song they performed, “Not Gonna Get Us,” is either about their homosexuality or Russia's response to Western criticism.

In the midst of heightening criticism of the legislation, the mayor of Sochi, Anatoly Pakhomov, claimed that he was not aware of any gays living in the city. Whether he would have made that controversial statement regardless of the recent popularization of the issue is a matter of debate. But a defensive attitude is surely expected from a nation who is still in search of its identity after decades of oppressive policies.

Anna Karenina, the fragile heroine of one of Leo Tolstoy's greatest novels, claims “I think...if so many men, so many minds, certainly so many hearts, so many kinds of love.”

■ ALEX D'JAMOOS

SENATE

Of College Councils

Visit us at
utsenate.org
Follow us on

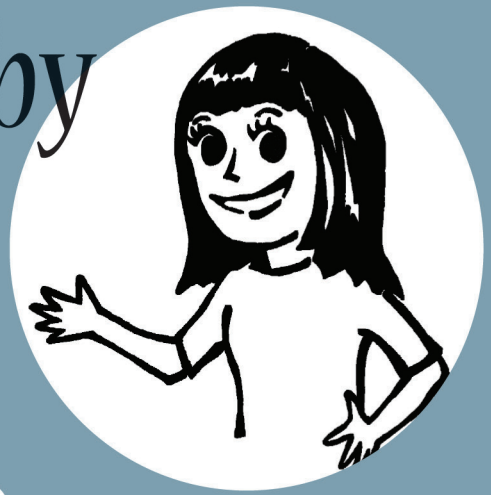


Do you have an academic idea,
problem, or concern?

Let us know!

Contact Senate at utsenate@gmail.com

Ask Libby



CAN I PASS / FAIL A
COURSE?

WHEN CAN I APPLY
TO GRADUATE?

Liberal Arts Answer Expert
Fake Person. Real Answers.

Answers to more questions like these at:

www.asklibby.org
asklibby@la.utexas.edu



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN • COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

LIBERAL ARTS CAREER SERVICES

HELPING YOU GO FROM **MAJOR** TO CAREER
AND ANYWHERE IN BETWEEN

FALL HIGHLIGHTS

COLLEGE TO CAREER COURSES: Register for a course to help you connect what you're learning now with potential jobs, and to explore career options.
<http://bit.ly/lacscourses>

@LACS: Are you using social media in your job or internship search? You should be. Learn how to do it, and how we can help.
<http://bit.ly/lacssm>

Resumes • Cover Letters • Internships • Interviewing • Pre-Law • Grad School • Career Courses • Social Media • Career Research • Career Fairs

Liberal Arts Career Services | FAC 18 | 512.471.7900 | lacs@austin.utexas.edu | www.utexas.edu/cola/orgs/lacs/

